

# **LOUISIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### *PREAMBLE*

We, the members of the Democratic State Central Committee, in order to organize and perpetuate a representative, effective, and responsible Democratic Party organization in the State of Louisiana, to affiliate with and advance the interests of the Democratic Party in Louisiana, and to uphold human and civil rights and constitutional government do establish the Louisiana Democratic Party and this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### *SUBORDINATION*

This constitution and the by-laws adopted pursuant thereto are subordinate to the Louisiana and United States election laws and to the Democratic National Committee Charter and the Rules of the Democratic National Committee on selection of delegates to the various conventions of the Party. The By-laws of the Louisiana Democratic Party are subordinate to this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### *NAME*

The name of this organization shall be the Louisiana Democratic Party.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### *PURPOSE*

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party of the State of Louisiana.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### *PARTY MEMBERSHIP*

Any citizen of Louisiana eighteen (18) years of age or older, who registers to vote as affiliated with the Democratic Party, shall be entitled to membership in the Louisiana Democratic Party. Unless specifically denied such right by law, all members of the

Louisiana Democratic Party shall be eligible to participate in all activities of the party; run for and hold office; and to participate and vote in any general meeting or caucus of the Louisiana Democratic Party to which they may otherwise be entitled, provided that at the time of casting such vote, such person shall be a resident within the geographical boundaries of the political subdivision he or she represents.

## **ARTICLE V**

### *MANAGEMENT*

The official body for administration of the affairs of the Louisiana Democratic Party is the Democratic State Central Committee. Any other Party organization shall be established by law or officially established or recognized by the Democratic State Central Committee and shall be subordinate to the Democratic State Central Committee.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### *ELECTION*

Any Democrat registered in the district in which he or she seeks election shall be eligible for election to the Democratic State Central Committee or a Democratic Parish Executive Committee. Members of the Democratic State Central Committee and/or Democratic Parish Executive Committee shall be elected every four years in compliance with state law.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### *COMPOSITION AND APPORTIONMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE*

The membership of the Democratic State Central Committee shall be composed of two hundred and ten (210) members. Two members shall be elected from each of the districts from which members of the House of Representatives of the legislature are elected. Each office for membership on the Democratic State Central Committee shall constitute a separate and distinct office. For the purpose of nomination and election to office, the offices within a district shall be designated alphabetically as Office "A" and Office "B". Office "A" shall be the designated seat for all female candidates for that district. Office "B" shall be the designated seat for all male candidates for that district. Each office within a district shall be arranged separately on the ballot and shall be designated as Office "A" and Office "B".

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### ***ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE***

The newly-elected members of the Democratic State Central Committee shall meet at the State Capitol, shall take office, and shall organize the Committee within forty (40) days of their election. A majority of the newly-elected members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. At the first meeting of the newly-elected members of the Democratic State Central Committee, the officers provided by the Constitution and By-laws of the Committee shall be elected by open ballot, signed by the elector.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ***OFFICERS***

The officers of the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana shall be the Chairperson, the First Vice-Chairperson, a Second Vice-Chairperson, a Third Vice-Chairperson, a Fourth Vice-Chairperson (at least one Vice-Chair shall be of the opposite sex from that of the Chairperson and at least one shall be a minority member), a Vice-Chairperson in Charge of Elected Officials (who shall be an elected official elected to an office other than the Democratic State Central Committee), a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Legal Counsel, a Clerk, a Parliamentarian, and Louisiana members of the Democratic National Committee, and such other officers as the Democratic State Central Committee may deem appropriate. In addition, two members (one male and one female) shall be elected from each Congressional District to represent their respective districts.

The above officers shall comprise the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Democratic Party. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the Louisiana Democratic Party between meetings of the Democratic State Central Committee. Statewide elected officials and members of Congress who register to vote as affiliated with the Democratic Party are encouraged to actively participate in the proceedings of the Executive Committee.

The Chairperson of the Democratic State Central Committee shall appoint such other persons as may be deemed necessary for the management of the Party. Persons appointed by the Chairperson may attend meetings of the Executive Committee, but shall not be voting members of said committee.

## **ARTICLE X**

### ***BY-LAWS***

The Democratic State Central Committee shall adopt by-laws for the operation of the Louisiana Democratic Party. The by-laws are intended to further define and regulate the

operating procedures of the Party and its constituent bodies. The by-laws may be added to or amended by majority vote of the membership of the Democratic State Central Committee after forty-five (45) days notice of the proposed amendments to the Rules and By-laws Committee and fourteen (14) days notice to the full membership of the Democratic State Central Committee.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### *AMENDMENTS*

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Democratic State Central Committee after sixty (60) days prior notice of proposed amendments to the Rules and By-laws Committee and twenty-one (21) days notice to the full membership of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Revised and Adopted By:

Democratic State Central Committee  
Ben Jeffers, Chairman  
April 25, 1998